



# First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars

Newsletter - October 24, 15

## First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars

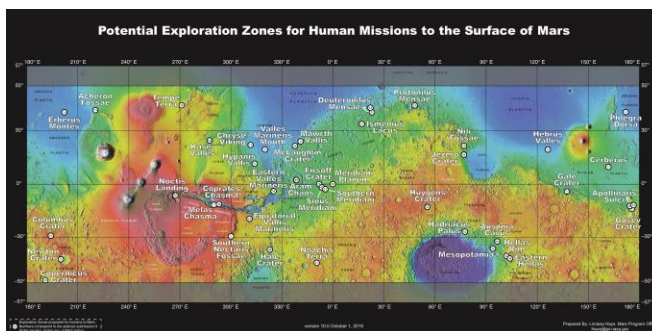
October 27–30, 2015  
Houston, TX

Dear Colleagues,

We are looking forward to working with you at the First Landing Site/Exploration Zone Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars on October 27 to 30, 2015, at the Lunar Planetary Institute (LPI) in Houston, TX. We thank you for your participation as we begin the exciting process of identifying potential human landing sites/Exploration Zones (EZs) on Mars.

Below you will find links to a high level agenda for the workshop, a detailed agenda with links to all of the abstracts, a link to the abstracts in order of presentation, and a map marked with all of the proposed EZs.

- [High Level Agenda](#)
- [Detailed Agenda with Links to Abstracts](#)
- [PDF of all Abstracts In Order of Presentation](#)
- [Martian Map of EZs](#)



As we have studied through all of the abstracts, we are extremely encouraged and excited by the response to the call. In the 45 Exploration Zones proposed, there is an excellent diversity both in science and ISRU regions of interest. The EZs are widely scattered across the Martian surface with a wide diversity of equatorial and high latitude sites. The sites represent a wide diversity of the Red Planet's geology, including the ancient Noachian, Hesperian volcanics, sedimentary deltas, large faults that may have tapped into the deep interior, the mid-latitude glacial belts, and many other important geological features. Extant and extinct life astrobiology objectives are both clearly represented in the abundance of sites. There is also an excellent variety of candidate water-ISRU targets including the potential for ice and hydrated minerals.

In order to facilitate comparisons between the large numbers of Exploration Zones, a template for presentations was created. If you are a presenter, please use this template, which can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). Additional presentation information, including specific information about the criteria listed on the rubric, can also be found in the supplemental paper provided on the website. If you have any questions about either of these, please get in touch with Lindsay Hays at [lhays@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:lhays@jpl.nasa.gov).

During the workshop, we will be preparing a “Lessons Learned and Future Steps Needed” report that will include suggestions for support to ultimately select a human landing site on Mars. Your involvement in this exercise will be key. [Click here](#) to view the document.

We also want to draw your attention to three events that are associated with the workshop to which you are invited:

- Evening of Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – dinner and a movie at Star Cinema Grill for a screening of *The Martian*. Space is limited. RSVP to [andres.almeida@nasa.gov](mailto:andres.almeida@nasa.gov).
- Evening of Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> – special reception at LPI hosted by Explore Mars, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BEHEP). In advance of the reception, there will be a poster session for abstracts that were not presented at the workshop. JSC’s human-rated rovers will also be onsite for viewing.
- Afternoon of Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM – two-hour Johnson Space Center (JSC) tour. Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible to [andres.almeida@nasa.gov](mailto:andres.almeida@nasa.gov). In the email please indicate if you are a U.S. Citizen or Foreign National. Foreign Nationals will need to include a copy of their passport with the photo. Some countries may not be allowed.

The entire workshop will be webcast live via a UStream channel that can be accessed at the conference webpage here: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/YMjupNHukn7>.

We also welcome any questions you may have. Again, we are excited to work with you and your participation is critically important to the advancement of this program.

Send inquiries to: [NASA-Mars-Exploration-Zones@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASA-Mars-Exploration-Zones@mail.nasa.gov)

Regards,



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Co-Chairs, Human Landing Sites Study Steering Committee